



PUBLISHED DAILY AND WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 4, 1860.

223—This Day being the Anniversary of National Independence, this office will be closed, and no paper issued therefrom to-morrow.

Political.

LETTER FROM COL. HENRY L. HOPKINS.—The following letter from Col. Henry L. Hopkins, one of the Democratic Electors of this State, defining his position, appears in the Richmond Enquirer of yesterday, and will be read with interest. It will be seen that Col. H. regards Mr. Douglas as the regular nominee of the National Democracy, and will support his election:

PETERSBURG, June 29, 1860.

Gentlemen:—In your semi-weekly issue of this morning, I find the following announcement: "National Democratic Ticket."

JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, of Kentucky, For Vice President of the United States.

GEN. JOSEPH LANE, of Oregon. And underneath you publish the names of the Electors composing the "National Democratic Ticket." As my name appears in that connection amongst them, silence would imply my acquiescence in the announcement, and so produce a strong impression of approval.

And I should be told the Constitution of the State requires a majority of each House to form a quorum for business, so, I reply, the principles and names of Democracy (its constitution) conveys to the majority the right to elect in conformity thereto. Nor can I comprehend how it is that such a convention as never before assembled in all the history of our National Conventions can claim a quorum or even precedent for its validity.

On the contrary, regarding the National Convention, you are in error. The National Democratic Convention, you state, met at the National Convention, and the names of the regular Democratic National Convention, I shall support his nomination most willingly and cordially, not only on that ground, but because of his life-long Democratic career, his experience, his great ability, and the large amount of valuable public services he has rendered his country. Indeed, since Gov. Wise withdrew, he has been my choice for the Presidency.

It is my pride that I have always been with my party, in its efforts as well as its triumphs. And now that its difficulties and dangers are greater than ever, I mean to evince my devotion to its principles and its integrity, by the best service in my power. I will do this with a dignity and a courage in the end. I dislike to differ with my friends, and especially with you, Messrs. Editors, but the path of duty is plain before me, and I must pursue it faithfully.

Every truly yours,

H. L. HOPKINS.

A meeting of the Democracy of Henrico county, held on Monday last, unanimously endorsed Breckinridge and Lane as the nominees of the Democratic party. The meeting also passed the following resolutions, *namely*:

Resolved, That the Democracy of Henrico have seen, therefore, with pride and pleasure, the honorable, loyal, and patriotic conduct and conclusion of the National Democratic Convention, and the names of the regular Democratic National Convention, I shall support his nomination most willingly and cordially, not only on that ground, but because of his life-long Democratic career, his experience, his great ability, and the large amount of valuable public services he has rendered his country. Indeed, since Gov. Wise withdrew, he has been my choice for the Presidency.

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At the Breckinridge meeting in Philadelphia on Monday night, a scene of great confusion occurred, caused by the Douglas men present giving three cheers for Douglas and interrupting the speakers. Gen. Lane spoke amid much difficulty, extolling the character of Breckinridge, and advocating his claims for the Presidency. When the vote was put on the resolutions, the rays were as loud as the eyes. Several of the crowd were arrested for disturbing the meeting.

Hon. Daniel S. Dickinson in the Birmingham (N. Y.) Democrat, declares himself for Breckinridge and Lane. "The majority of the New York delegation," he says, "held the balance of power in the National Convention, under the unit rule, and could have saved and united the party they have so wantonly and wickedly divided and destroyed. The responsibility is on them, and the shame is theirs."

At New York, July 2, a Douglas meeting was held at Tammany Hall. About three thousand persons participated. Ex-Mayor Tilden presided. Stands were erected in the streets, and a display of fireworks added to the animation of the scene. Senator Pugh, Mr. Marshall, of Tennessee, and others spoke. Their remarks were denunciatory of the administration. Mr. Douglas is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

At a meeting of the Empire Club of New York, arrangements were made for a meeting to pronounce an undivided support of Douglas and Johnson. The Club are to meet at Madison square, and form a torch-light procession to march to Tammany and participate in the ratification of the nomination of Douglas and Johnson.

The New Orleans Crescent, Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, and Athens (Ga.) Watchman, heretofore neutral in the present contest, have gallantly hoisted the flag of Bell and Everett! All these papers are influential, and will do noble work for our candidates and our cause.

The Montgomery Confederation, one of the most influential Democratic papers in the State, and published right under Yancy's nose, announces its intention to support the nomination of Douglas and ex-Gov. John Johnson, of Georgia.

We have received information, says the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, coming direct from a friend of Texas, that the hero of San Jacinto has declared for the only National ticket, Bell and Everett.

A dispatch from Washington says:—"The Democratic politicians here have abandoned all hope of effecting any accommodation whatever between the respective candidates, by a joint electoral ticket or otherwise."

John Tyler, ex-President of the United States, has written a letter in which he goes strong for Breckinridge and Lane.

Hon. Herschel V. Johnson, candidate for Vice President, made an speech at Atlanta, Ga., Saturday night.

The Breckinridge and Lane ratification meeting at Norfolk, Va., has been postponed until after the State Convention.

The circumstances of the tragedy in New York, which occurred on Saturday night, render the case as startling as any that has transpired since the murder of Dr. Harvey Burdell. The parties were unknown to each other, and both were gentlemen of some prominence in the business community; one, Mr. John Walton, having been engaged for some years in conducting an extensive distillery, and the other, Mr. John W. Matthews, being a railroad contractor by profession. The perpetrator of the double murder eluded arrest, and, in fact, is not certainly known, although the proceedings at inquest, which was held on Sunday upon the bodies of the murdered men, tend strongly to implicate the two sons-in-law of Mr. Walton, named Charles and Edward Jeffries, for whom warrants of arrest have been issued. Since the marriage of Mr. Walton with the mother of the suspected parties, he had led an unblemished life, and the constant difficulties between himself on one side, and his wife and her sons on the other, had resulted in a separation and suit for divorce, in which he was plaintiff. Since the commencement of the action, which is still pending in the Supreme Court, Mr. Walton's life, it is said, had been threatened repeatedly by his wife and her two sons, until at last he was afraid to venture in the streets without company. On Saturday night, while walking through Eighteenth street, near First avenue, accompanied by his cousin, R. H. Pascal, he was seized from behind, and survived the wound but a few hours. It was in an attempt to overtake the murderer, who had fled, that Mr. Matthews lost his life, the fugitive having turned upon him and fired with so true aim, that his pursuer scarcely breathed afterwards.

Archbishop Hughes delivered an able address in New York, last Sunday, on the subject of the abstraction of Romagna from the dominions of the Pope. He denounced the recent proceedings in Italy in so far as they related to dismemberment of the States of the Church.

The Charleston Courier says that the friends of Mr. Breckinridge are in great danger of suffering from the active friendship and interference of the President, who has been opposed to Mr. Douglas has been a great element of strength to that gentleman.

The address on the life and services of the late Governor Tazewell, delivered in Norfolk, on Friday last, by Hugh Blair Grigsby, Esq., was an interesting and valuable essay. It will be published, and add to the historical records of our State.

Mr. S. W. Williams, Secretary of Legation to China, has arrived at Washington, bearing the treaty between China and the United States, ratified in due form, and an autograph letter from the Emperor to the President.

We learn, with regret, that the recovery of the estimable wife of Governor T. Holliday Hicks of Md., who has been ill for some time with consumption, is regarded as beyond hope, and that her death is hourly expected.

Mr. Breckinridge is very soon to leave for California with Senator Latham, proposing to pass the summer on the Pacific coast. He had made arrangements for this trip before his nomination.

The commencement of Washington College, at Lexington, Va., took place last week. Everything was satisfactory. Hon. G. W. Summers was requested to deliver the next annual address before the Alumni.

It is said that the Great Eastern runs so smoothly, even in a rough sea, that those on board are but little troubled with sea sickness.

Writing ink, made from sand, is manufactured in Jefferson county, Mississippi.

The publication of that old and excellent Whig journal, the Petersburg Intelligencer, has been resumed. It will be edited by Robert Bolling, Esq., and we hope may long continue to do good service in the good cause.

The rival political factions of the Democratic party, at the North and Northwest, continue to contend with each other, in demonstrations, meetings, &c., in favor of their respective candidates.

The Southern Literary Messenger for July is full of interesting, instructive, and amusing matter. It contains an illustrated article on life and literature in Japan. Some of the best minds in the South have contributed to this number. The pen of one of the first thinkers in Virginia, is employed in discussing the Ethnology of the Negro Races.

Virginia News.

GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VA.—The following is a list of graduates in Law and Medicine, and the Masters of Arts, in the University for the present session:

Medicine, with the title of Doctor of Medicine.—W. B. Hunter, Texas; R. P. Page, Clarke; W. H. Peck, Hampton; N. M. Read, Henry; A. E. Slaughter, Culpeper; J. B. Stovall, North Carolina; W. P. Thurman, Bedford; J. R. Ward, Lynchburg; W. R. Wilson, North Carolina.

Law.—With the title of Bachelor of Law. Edward C. Anderson, Jr., Savannah, Ga.; Samuel P. Davis, Liberty; John G. Mason, Falmouth; John L. Massie, Augusta; Camm Patterson, Buckingham; Wm. Thomson, Beaufort, S. C.; Wm. E. Towles, Bayway, La.

Masters of Arts.—Wm. Allen, Winchester; L. M. Blackford, Lynchburg; Jas. M. Boyd, Lynchburg; Charles M. Gibbons, Lynchburg; John M. Gregory, Jr., Richmond; Herbert H. Harris, Louisville; R. M. T. Hunter, Jr., Essex; Wm. H. Mackey, Kentucky; John B. Magruder, Albemarle; Joseph A. Turner, Hicksford; Richard Walker, Jr., Norfolk.

In the other schools there are the usual number of graduates.

We regret to learn from a correspondent of the Richmond Enquirer, that Professor John B. Minor, the distinguished Professor of Law at the University of Virginia, has suffered seriously of late from a disease of the throat, and that Professor Holcombe, assistant professor of Law, has returned from Europe in such feeble health as to be unable to lecture.

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.—G. W. Sites, formerly connected with the Petersburg Press, and more recently engaged as associate editor of the Bedford Sentinel, made an attempt on Monday, while laboring under temporary aberration, to commit suicide. He first went to Mrs. Jourdan's, about seven miles from Lynchburg, and asked for a knife, stating that he desired to cut his throat. He also requested them to lend him a gun, with which to blow his brains out. Both of these requests being of course refused, he went to an adjoining wood and butt his head against a large rock, with jagged edges, mutilating in a horrible manner. He then went to the kitchen of Mr. Hillsman, where he got a case-knife, with which he inflicted an ugly gash across his throat. His condition is such that his life is not considered in immediate danger. No reason was assigned for the rash act.

SUICIDE.—John Hughes, a wealthy citizen of Gloucester county, Va., worth \$100,000, and one of the most honorable and estimable men in the country, committed suicide on Thursday last. About two weeks previous to the commission of the deed he lost his youngest son, which had a powerful influence on his mind, he took laudanum, and the dose did not fulfill his purpose, and on the day mentioned he repaired to one of the out-houses on his farm, where he sat down and, as is supposed, deliberately cut his throat with a razor.

ARREST.—The young man Gorito, charged with robbing the letters at the Post-Office, Princess Anne, Va., of money, and who fled as soon as it was discovered, has been arrested in Vicksburg, Miss., and is now awaiting the action of the U. S. Marshal.

The Clarke County Conservator says:—"Thos. H. Duke, of this County, who was sentenced at the May term of our County Court to the Penitentiary for one year, for shooting a man named Turner, has been pardoned by the Governor, and was released from confinement in jail on last Tuesday evening. This act upon the part of Gov. Letcher will meet with the almost unanimous approval of this community. The petition sent on for the unconditional pardon of Duke, was signed by fully nine-tenths of our citizens, which showed that they considered the act of shooting Turner a justifiable one."

The Charleston, Jefferson County, Independent says:—"A child, apparently just home was found near this place, on Friday evening last, with its skull smashed to jelly, and its body scattered under some brush. A coroner's inquest was held over it, but no clue to the perpetrator of the horrid deed was elicited."

The Crops, &c.

Petersburg has the credit of leading off this year in the new wheat receipts. Messrs. N. M. Martin, Bro. & Co., sold on Friday, to Messrs. Thomas Branch & Sons, 100 bushels prime new red at \$1.40 per bushel. This wheat was raised by Mr. O. P. Taylor, of Granville county, N. C., near Kittrell's Springs.

It was in fine condition, and the grain was well cut and full. It has been several years since any of the new crop has been received here in the month of June.

The first transaction in wheat this season, in this city, that we have heard of, took place on Wednesday. Four thousand five hundred bushels changed hands, at figures which we were unable to obtain. Messrs. Horner & Hurt, of Stapleton Mills, were the purchasers. —Lynchburg Virginian, June 29th.

The Martinsburg (Va.) Gazette of Saturday says:—"Most of the Berkeley farmers commenced cutting their wheat this week. The indications favor the belief that there will be a tolerably fair average crop in the county."

The grain movements at Chicago are strong, and a daily average of 200,000 bush. is about the amount of the receipts.

A letter from Rockbridge county, Va., says:—"The wheat crop in this country is now fast falling before the reapers. The harvesting will not be so great this season as it was the last, and probably not so abundant as it was two seasons ago, by reason of the depletions of the joint worm and fly, and the destruction to some extent by hail; but the quality will be unsurpassed. The rye and oat crops, especially the former, which heretofore has been exceedingly precarious in this region, is better than ordinary. The prospect for a very large crop of corn is remarkably good. I regret to hear that many of our farmers who have tested the fertilizing properties of our Rockbridge plaster, so called, have come to the conclusion that it is almost worthless; consequently, the clover crop will be shorter than usual."

The Clarke County Conservator says:—"We are glad to learn that our farmers now think, since they have commenced cutting their crop, that they will have as much grain as they had last year."

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the TIMES."

At Concord, N. H., on Saturday last, the grand jury found bills against the United States officers for kidnapping Frank B. Sanborn on the 3d of April. It will be recollected that Sanborn had been summoned as a witness by the U. S. Senate in the Harper's Ferry raid investigation, and refused to attend. Officers were sent to arrest him, but he was rescued by "sympathizers." The officers indicted are James Carlton, George Freeman, Jr., W. B. Farleton and George J. Coolidge. There are four counts in the indictment, charging seizure without lawful warrant, assault, &c. No bill was found against Sanborn for assaulting the officers.

Charles Goodyear, the inventor of the new of vulcanizing India-rubber, died in New York, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, on the 1st inst., after an illness of four weeks. Mr. Goodyear was born in New Haven, December 29, 1809. The disease which terminated his life had its origin in the severe and long-continued privations and anxieties which he suffered, and struggles which he made in order to perfect and introduce into public use the great invention, vulcanization, to which his whole life since 1839, the date of the discovery, has been devoted.

A very sudden and painful death occurred in Richmond last Thursday night. C. C. Mason, Esq., a most estimable citizen, and one of the inspectors at Seabrook's warehouse, indulged in a cold bath, remaining in the water but a short time. While in the act of putting on his clothes, he fell from an attack of apoplexy. The screams of his devoted wife and family soon attracted several neighbors, who ran for Dr. Dean and other eminent physicians. Alas! when they arrived Mr. Mason was past recovery; the vital spark had fled.

The Great Eastern is undergoing the necessary renovation, painting, deck scouring, spar-scrapping, brass scouring and saloon-dressing preparatory to the admission of visitors. Much dissatisfaction is expressed with the action of the Directors of the Great Ship Company at the meeting, yesterday, to fix the terms of admission on board. By various means, the price is to be \$1, and 50 cents for children under 12 years of age. One dollar too high to enable the masses to board her.

Brazos dates of the 28th ult., have been received per steamer Arizona. Private letters from Monterey and Matamoros say that General Zaragoza, commanding the liberals, had defeated and taken General Miramon prisoner near Salamanca. Gen. Ramirez, commanding the Matamoros troops had been defeated by Gen. Ortega, and civil war was raging in Nueva Leon and northern Mexico, where efforts were making in favor of Gen. Comonfort's return. The Arizona brought \$75,000 in specie.

Counterfeit \$100 bills, on a general plate used by a large number of banks in New England, have made their appearance in Boston, over \$5,000 having been presented at various banking houses on the Prescott Bank, Lowell, and Newton Bank, Newton. They have for a vignette a spread eagle, with eagle locks and rail cars in the distance, and the numerals "100" on each side of the vignette. It is supposed the counterfeiters are made in Canada.

Judge McCaleb's opinion in the case of the Miramon steamers does not reach the subject of the claims of the officers and seamen captured and imprisoned. Those parties will, of course, sue in the courts for false imprisonment. Spain having already a claim upon the U. S. government on account of her subjects, will be able to add to the amount more than enough to balance accounts.

The list of American vessels (exclusive of lake or bay craft) reported during June as lost and missing is fortunately unusually light, numbering but ten vessels. They comprise 1 steamer, (U. S.) 2 ships, 1 bark, 1 brig and 5 schooners. Of these 4 were wrecked, 1 sunk by collision, 1 foundered, 2 abandoned, 1 captured and 1 missing. The value of the vessels is estimated at \$255,000, exclusive of cargoes.

John Mulholland, still another New Orleans murderer, has been tried and convicted of the wilful and malicious killing of a policeman, named Somers. There are several other persons implicated in the murder of which Mulholland has been found guilty.

The schooner John A. Taylor has arrived with Ruanan island of the 20th ult. The cessation of the island of Honduras was unfavorably looked upon. Fifty troops had arrived from Balise to maintain order. The people object to the treaty, and it will probably be amended.

It was confidently expected that Lady Franklin would have been among the passengers on the Adriatic, but from advice received she was obliged to defer her visit to the United States until the next trip of that steamer. She will be the guest of Mr. Henry Grinnell.

In noticing the effects of a severe storm at Boston on the 27th ultimo, in injuring trees in the public parks, the Atlas says:—"But the chief and saddest loss is the destruction of the grand old elm, which for many years has been the prominent feature of our beautiful common."

At Rutland, Vt., July 2d, John Whitecomb was arrested for robbing the American and Canadian mails while under his charge.—He had spent \$100 in Canadian money lately, which drew suspicion upon him. Skeleton keys were found on him.

The vacant Judgeship on the Supreme Court Bench cannot be filled till December, the vacancy having occurred during the sitting of that body. It is extremely doubtful what will be the result of the appointment will finally take.

When the tornado struck Camanche, Ia., four men were engaged in playing cards in one of the buildings totally destroyed. All four were killed with the cards in their hands. What became of the stakes is not stated.

At New York, July 2, Edwin Jeffers was taken in custody for the murder of the men Walton and Matthews. The crime attaches more to Charles Jeffers, who is said to answer the description of the murderer.

The excitement in Maryland, about the great oyster monopoly has extended itself to Kent county, where an indignation meeting was proposed to be held on Saturday afternoon last.

Advices from Norfolk, state that the cargo of the ship Jane Henderson, will be saved in a damaged condition; except the pig iron which will be lost.

At Boston, July 2, the referees have awarded \$93,375 insurance to the Pemberton corporation, being 22 1/2 per cent. on the amount insured on the mill.

The often repeated rumors of the intended removal of John Heart, the superintendent of public printing, do not appear to be well founded.

The President will probably this week remove to his summer-residence, the Soldier's Home.

Letter from Dumfries, Va.

Correspondence of Commercial Advertiser.

DUMFRIES, Virginia, June 29.—There is a wide difference between sailing down the Potomac, with a fair wind before which our little yacht dashed along, her bows decked with sparkling foam, and the heated air, with a puff of wind to cool the drifting air.—Between tides, we have landed and received hospitable attentions from the planters, whose hopes of an abundant harvest have been destroyed by the ravages of a hail storm. The corn, however, will probably recover.

The soil of all this region was exhausted by the early tobacco planters, but of late years has been somewhat restored by the application of guano, lime, and plaster, with application of crops. Fifteen bushels of wheat or thirty bushels of corn, are regarded as a good crop. Labor is scarce, as the slave population is diminishing in numbers.

Accepting the offer of saddle-horses and himself as a guide, from a gentleman before whose estate our yacht was anchored this morning during the ebbside, we came to this almost deserted cove. A hundred years since it was a flourishing commercial port, with deep water at its wharves on the inlet of the Potomac now almost entirely filled up. Upwards of a hundred sail of square-rigged vessels were then employed in carrying to Europe the tobacco collected in its ample warehouses, and in bringing return cargoes of the manufactures of foreign lands, not at that time produced by home industry.

An old ledger preserved in one of the brick mansions yet standing, shows how perfectly dependent the "Old Dominion" was on the mother country for every thing. Dry goods, hardware, medicines, groceries—indeed all the necessities and comforts of life—were ordered each year by the planters, whose invoices were sent out by the Dumfries merchants separately, and the goods came back directed to the purchaser, at whose plantation landing on the Potomac of Lappahannock they were delivered. This enabled the merchants here and the factors in England to each charge a commission and they also charge for forwarding and selling the tobacco, with interest on advances, &c. One charged against nearly every planter having an account in the ledger.

The moving to the Potomac was had in those days, and horse-drawn were rolled to market, by putting iron pins through the centre of each head as an axle, to which shafts were attached.

Dumfries was settled by "Canny Scots," and while they had their kirk and their school, they also had a theatre for the amusement of their cavalier customers, which enjoyed a high historic reputation in its time. Even now, the ladies of the place tell how a knight of the buskin wood and won the heart of the daughter of one of the very first families.

Dumfries was the home of that eccentric biographer, Mr. L. Weems, who was at one time settled here as a clergyman, and was a zealous Freemason, presiding over Lodge No. 50.

The court-house, built in 1753, with a hotel, and a few mansion-houses, substantially erected, defy the attacks of time, but hundreds of buildings have gone to ruin, and several streets can be traced in flourishing corn fields, by piles of brick, or by low mounds of earth, the ruins of old mansions.

A large and thickly populated graveyard, with numerous marble tablets, records the wealth and social refinements of Dumfries in the days of its commercial prosperity.

This whole region of country is rich in historical souvenirs. There are massive old churches, surrounded by monuments which used the care of some Old Mortality; large manor-halls, once the resort of the chivalry and proud, are in ruins, or are shorn of commercial pomp and have now a few of their former splendour, and here we have a commercial port, and here we have a city, and almost unknown by the busy occupants of places once its rivals.

BUFFALO.

Fourth of July Reminiscences.

In the month of June, 1776, the minds of the members of the Continental Congress were earnestly directed to a practical consideration of the minor German sovereigns, and subject which followed inevitably the labors of the Revolutionary leaders both in the field and the council.

On the 8th of June the Congress (then but one body) went into the committee of the whole to consider "the resolutions respecting independence," and on the 10th it was agreed that a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration to the effect of the first resolution, to wit:

"That these United Colonies are and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved."

On the 11th of June the following members were chosen to constitute the committee: Mr. Jefferson, Mr. John Adams, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Sherman, and Mr. R. R. Livingston.

On the 25th of June a declaration of the deputies of Pennsylvania, met in Provincial Council, was laid before Congress, and read, expressing their willingness to concur in a vote of Congress declaring the United Colonies, free and independent States.

On the 28th of June Francis Hopkinson, one of the delegates from New Jersey, presented his credentials and instructions authorizing him "to join in declaring the United Colonies independent of Great Britain, entering into a confederation for union and common defence."

On the 1st of July a resolution from the Convention of Maryland was presented, concurring in the movement for independence, and in forming a further compact and confederation.

On the 2d of July Congress resumed the consideration of the resolution reported from the committee of the whole, which was agreed to, as follows:

"Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown; and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is and ought to be totally dissolved."

On the 3d of July the subject was further considered, and it was "resolved that this Congress will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole to take into their further consideration the Declaration of Independence."

On the 4th of July Mr. Harrison, the presiding officer in committee of the whole, reported that the committee had agreed to a declaration which they desired him to report. The well-known Declaration of Independence was read and agreed to